(d) State level sanction for implementation of the schemes were not issued in time resulting in accumulation of unspent balances with the State Government.

Action on Representation by Gujarat Government

1542. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether action has been taken on the representation made by the Government of Gujarat, regarding the cyclone of 1998-99 and scarcity of 1999-2000, to the Prime Minister on 26th October, 1999; and

(b) if action has not been taken, the expected time period to finalise the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULSTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Rs. 55.35 crore have been released to Government of Gujarat as additional assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the wake of the cyclone of 1998-99. The memorandum of the State Government for additional assistance from the NFCR in the wake of the drought conditons of 1999-2000 is under consideration, in accordance with the established procedure.

Task Force for Orissa Cyclone

1543. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force for Super Cyclone in Orissa has the same power and function as Expert Group;

(b) whether the Task Force has submitted any preliminary report for action; and

(c) if any, what are the details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The High Powered Task Force on Orissa Cyclone has been constituted to prepare a comprehensive action plan for rehabilitation,

recommend its mode of implementation and steps need to be taken in other areas of the country which are prone to such calamities. This is not an Expert Group.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Co-ordination of Relief Work

1544. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether lack of Co-ordination in Orissa relief work has been reported; and

(b) if so, the measures taken for quicker relief measures and build pucca houses along the coast as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) According to information received from the Government of Orissa, relief and rescue measures in the wake of the Super cyclone of 29th October, 1999 were conducted in close coordination with Government of India and the non-Governmental Organisations. After the initial stage of relief and rescue, the State Government is formulating the medium and long-term rehabilitation programmes for the affected areas, including repair/reconstruction of damaged houses.

Agriculture Research Institute in Assam

1545. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to establish Agriculture Research Centre (Institute) in Assam;

(b) if so, the details of location selected by Government;

(c) whether a new proposal can be formulated to set up the above Research Centre in the District of North Cachar hills in Assam; and

(d) if so, the details of guidelines to set up the same?